

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

Clarke Press Release

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SEN. HANSEN CLARKE CALLS FOR 100 PERCENT ACCURACY REGARDING PAROLE ELIGIBILITY OF PRISONERS

DETROIT - State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) announced today that a 1998 State of Michigan Auditor General's Report revealed that the Department of Corrections (DOC) Intake to Parole Process had data coding errors similar to the one that allowed accused murderer, Daniel Franklin, to receive early parole.

"My goal through this investigation is to ensure that all prisoners are coded with 100 percent accuracy to prevent another terrible tragedy from happening like the one that took the lives of Machekia Robinson and her two daughters," Sen. Clarke said. "As part of my ongoing investigation, I will ask the Auditor General to conduct another report to determine the current extent of coding problems within the state's corrections system, and then work with the department and the governor to implement the necessary safeguards."

The main findings of the 1998 report are:

- "DOC had not taken sufficient action to ensure the correctness of data provided to the Parole Board."
- "DOC did not always comply with the statutes and policies for preparing parole eligibility reports."

For instance, the Auditor General reviewed 80 parole eligibility reports to determine if they were prepared in compliance with the governing statutes and policies.

- "In 6 (7.5 percent) instances, the parole eligibility reports did not address or accurately reflect the prior parole history of the prisoners."

- “In 5 (6.3 percent) instances, the parole eligibility reports did not show or accurately reflect the major misconducts incurred by the prisoners.”

The Auditor General’s report stated that “coding information is critical because it allows the Parole Board to access a prisoner’s character and background and helps in determining if the prisoner is ready for a parole.”

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Based on the Auditor General’s report, Sen. Clarke will be requesting the following:

- The State of Michigan establish a new standard requiring the DOC to provide the Parole Board with information that is 100 percent accurate.
- The Auditor General to conduct a follow-up investigation of the department to determine what the DOC has done to comply with the Auditor General’s recommendations in the 1998 report.
- Included in the investigation, request the Auditor General to determine whether additional measures beyond the recommendations in the 1998 report should be proposed to ensure that the DOC provide the Parole Board with accurate, reliable and timely information.

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